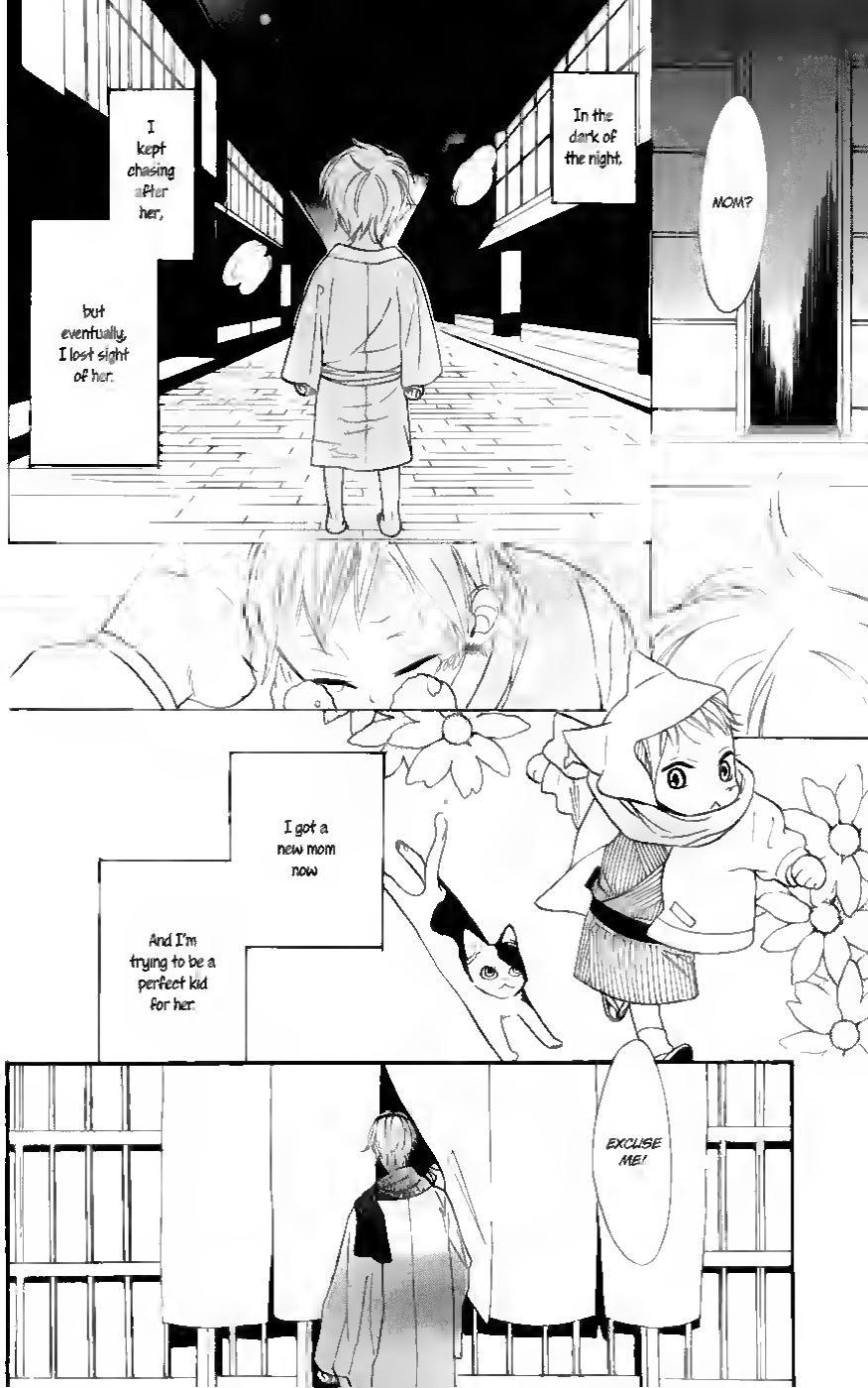
The Child of Cat Town
IT'S BEAUTIFUL
Designs from the Edo period
that were left untouched by the war.
The red shutters go on and on.
People say that after a particular point...
the sound would cut off.
Once night falls, the sounds of samishen and taiko drums filter up
The tea shop district

猫の街の子
第2話
The Child of Cat Town
Chapter 2

GOOD MORNING, MOM!
Sushinmono
IT'S COLD OUT AGAIN
ARE YOU OK?
IT SNOWED, SO BE SURE...
TO KEEP WARM, ALL RIGHT?
SNOW IS STRANGE, ISN'T IT?
IT'S SUPER WHITE, JUST LIKE MOM.
IT'S FLUFFY IN THE WAY MOM IS...
BUT IT'S NOT WARM LIKE MOM, THOUGH...
I MADE A PROMISE TO
INFILTRATE THE YONEKAWA TEA SHOP WITH NYANCHI.

There are a lot of stray cats in this town
The townspeople
give food and lend shelter.
Hisasu understands
The cats are like free people of the town, too
Ichii is definite proof of that.
Meow
YOU'RE HUNGRY, AREN'T YOU?
ALL RIGHT, I'M OFF!
DO YOUR BEST AT WORK TODAY!
Meow

Meow
LET'S GO EAT AT IKEYA TODAY!
dash
I've become a mother to these cats.
It's been about four months now
Up until then, I had been a mother to humans.
step step step
shuffle
shuffle
step step step step step

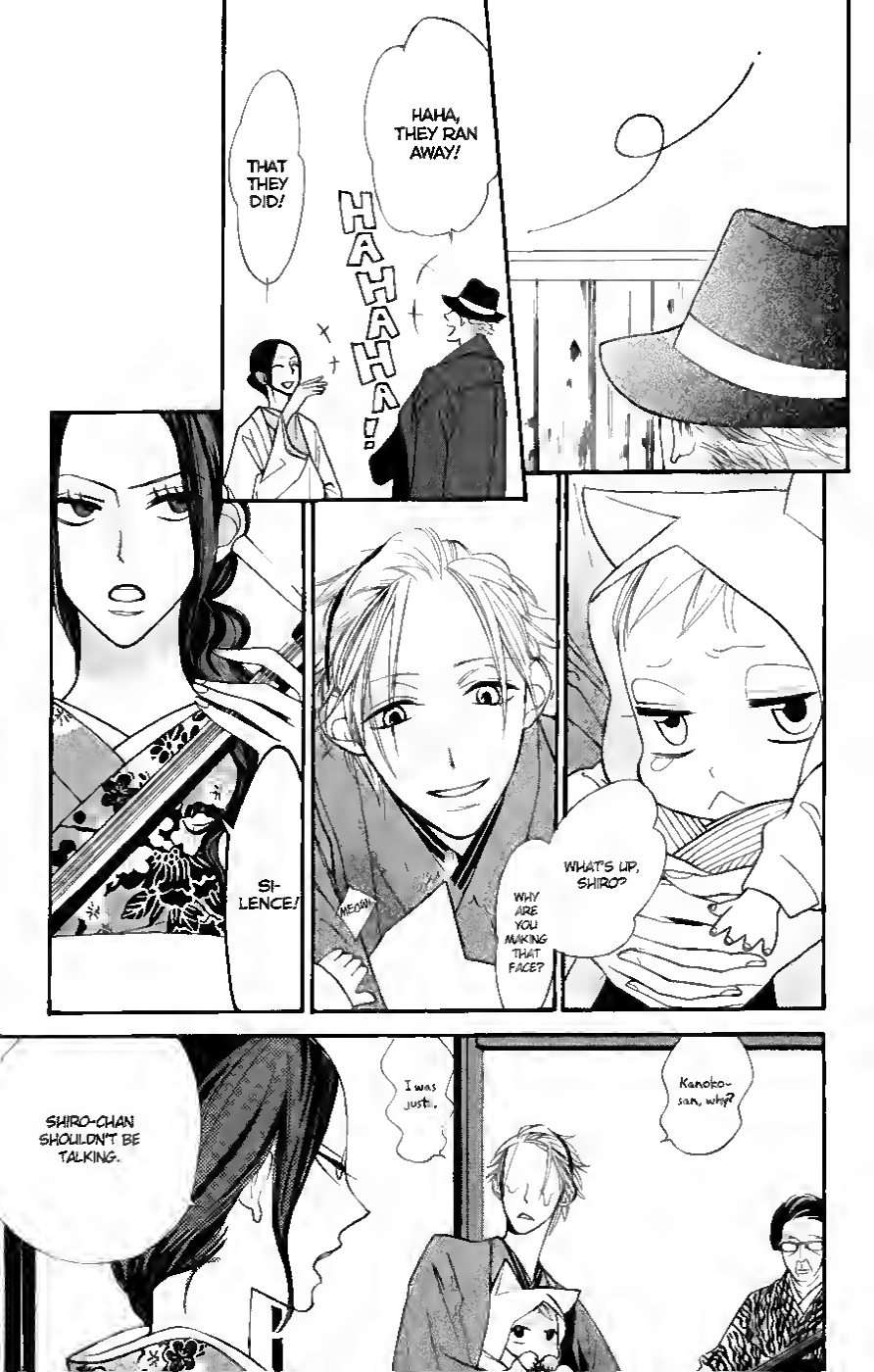

I kept chasing after her,
but eventually, I lost sight of her.
In the dark of the night,
MOM?
I got a new mom now
And I'm trying to be a perfect kid for her.
EXCUSE ME!

ICHII-SAN...
SHIRO WENT OUT
YES, THIS MORNING
HE'S OUT PLAYING WITH NYAN-CHI
LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF TO YOU
ICHII-KUN
STOP IT!
TAKA-HIRO-SAN...
LOOK, ICHII-KUN'S COME TO MEET YOU!
Adopted son
Meow

EVERY DAY, I'M PUTTING ENERGY INTO BEING A MOTHER
THE DUE DATE IS COMING UP SOON
YOU'VE REALLY GOTTEN BIGGER, HAVEN'T YOU?
THAT'S TRUE
WHAT'S NYANCHI?
WELL...
WAIT-ING
SHIRO-CHAN.
WHAT'S UP? YOU'RE SCRAT-CHING
WAITING? FOR WHAT?

NYAN-CHI
DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE JIDUYA IS?
NYANCHI?
I WON-DER NYAN-CHI
whoosh
TSK

!!
Wah Wah
WOW
ARE YOU STAYING AT JIDLIYA'S?
OH?
I WAS THINKING OF STAYING FOR A WEEK
store
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE COME HERE,
BUT THAT KID OVER THERE...


HAHA, THEY RAN AWAY!
THAT THEY DID!
HAHAHA!!
SI-LENCE!
MEOW
WHY ARE YOU MAKING THAT FACE?
WHAT'S UP, SHIRO?
SHIRO-CHAN SHOULDN'T BE TALKING.
I was just...
Kanoko-san, why?

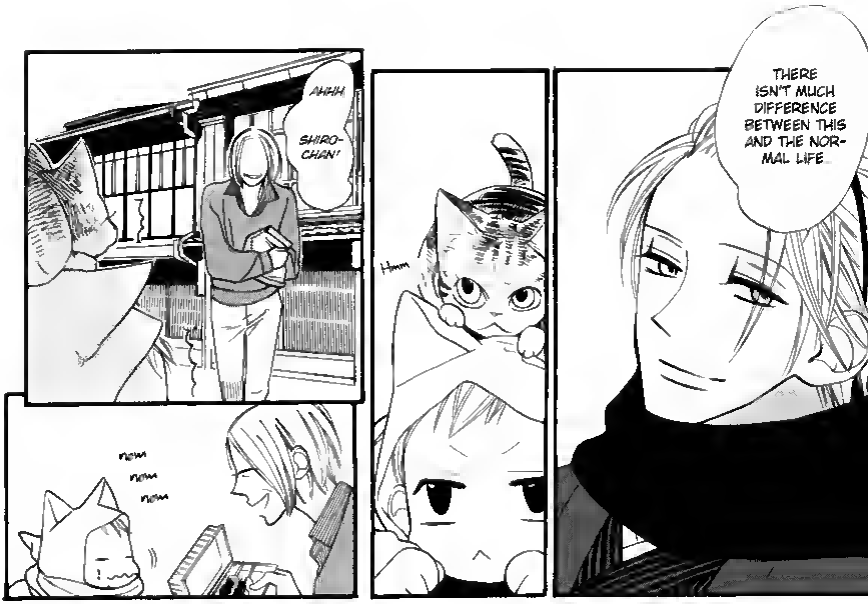
EVERY-ONE IS SO INDULGENT WITH SHIRO
SHALL WE TAKE A BREAK?
NYANCHI IS GONE!
NYA...
NYANCHI IS A CAT
BY THE WAY, SHIRO...
WHO OR WHAT IS NYANCHI, EXACTLY?
BUT RECENTLY
He was a scary face, but he's a nice person
YOU COULD EVEN CONSIDER HIM A BOSS*?
HE'S MY MASTER
AMONGST TH'S TOWN'S CATS, HE'S AN ELDER.
HE'S INFORMED AND VERY WISE
HE HASN'T BEEN SHOWING UP TO HIS REGULAR MEALTIMES AT ALL

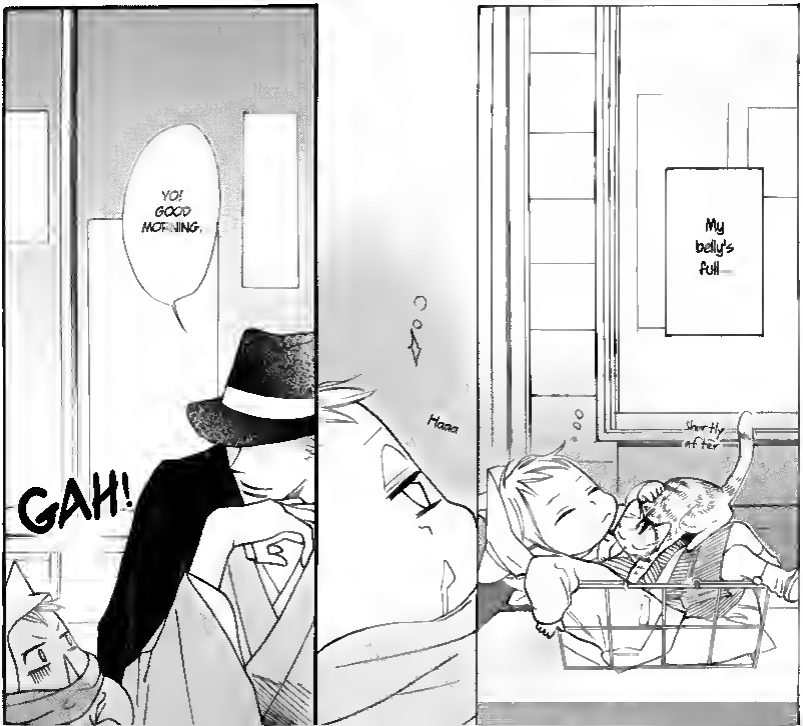
TL NOTE: SEIKEI-ESQUE, NOT "OWNER/BOSS"

[illegible] is a [illegible] word. [illegible] is a type of [illegible] which is pictured on the book. The Japanese word for it is the same as the word for "baron".

SERVANTS
HAHAHA.
THEN HE WILL FORCE NYANCHI TO ADVISE HIM!
HE'S PLANNING ON MAKING A CAT EMPIRE!
WHY A STRAY CAT...?
IT'S A CAT EM-PIRE!
YOU'RE ASSENT-ING?
Haha
ha
I SEE.
I need to do something about it!
I can't let the Baron get away with his plans!
SHIRO WASN'T THERE TO CUDDLE WITH, SO I GOT COLD.
He slipped out...
OH, YOU'RE UP AWFULLY EARLY, HUH
Sarcasm

Meanwhile, with Shiro.
I can't see too well from the outside
IS THAT OK?
You won't be exposed, will you?
IT'S FINE, RIGHT?


AHHH
SHIRO-CHAN!
nom
nom
nom
Hmm
THERE ISN'T MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS AND THE NORMAL LIFE.


YO! GOOD MORNING.
GAH!
Haaa
My belly's full—
Shortly after

Gah
Gah
HOLD ON, HOLD ON
YEAH
ALWAYS DOING THINGS LIKE THAT, HUH?
YOU'RE GOOD FRIENDS WITH AWA-RAYA'S KID, AREN'T YOU?
THAT'S ICHI!
ICHI'S ALWAYS GETTING HIS MOM MAD
OH?
I WANTED TO SPEAK WITH YOU
Monster bat
Whck?

AH,
I'M SORRY
I LOVE SNOW
FLEET-ING?
IT'S UNRELIABLE AND CAN EASILY DISAPPEAR.
FOR EXAMPLE, THIS TOWN IS SIMILAR TO SNOW
BECAUSE IT'S FLEET ING
YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THIS TOWN, BUT
THERE AREN'T MANY TOWNS LEFT THAT ARE BUILT LIKE THIS ONE
SLOWLY FADING AWAY
BENEATH THE POW-DERY SNOW
AS DEATH SLOWLY APPROA-CHES
FOR SOME REASON, I END UP GETTING ATTRACTED TO THESE SORTS OF THINGS
ONLY I UNDERSTAND THOSE THAT ARE LEFT

MOM IS WHITE AND FLUFFY,
AND VERY KIND,
AND VERY WARM
.. MOM
REALLY?
AND AT THE SAME TIME, I DON'T UNDERSTAND, EITHER.
WHAT KIND OF THING DO YOU THINK IS BEAUTIFUL?

MOM, IT'S YOU, ISN'T IT?
MOM, MOM.
YES, IT IS
IT'S A CAT
YES, IT IS
MEOW

こんにちは。
モリエサトシです。

猫の街の子、
おもにとって頂けて
幸せです。

この話の1話が
掲載されたのは
5年も前のことで、
今回コミックスとして
1つにまとめてもらえて
とてもうれしいです。

コミックスにするということで、以前に描いた3話に新しく1話を描かせてもらいました。
当時倒れそうなほど忙しかったにもかかわらず、描く場所をもらってくれた担当さま、本当にありがとうございます。
また 花とゆめ編集部 別冊花とゆめ編集部の皆さま 本当にありがとうございます。

今回柱スペースが4つしかないのでらくちんです
(^^)

Scratch
Scratch
ICHII, YOU IDIOT!
stare
AHH!
EH?
IF SHIRO WAS A DOG...
HMM. WOULD A MUZZLE WORK?
ALL I DID WAS WANDER AROUND THE TOWN
Ignore!
IF MOM FOUND OUT, IT'D BE YOUR FAULT!
THEN WHY DO YOU SMELL LIKE CAKE?!
THE BARON'S NEXT TARGET IS MOTHER!
I really doubt that
TAE-SAN WOULD? WHY?
Shiro

THE BARON
HE SAID MOM IS BEAUTIFUL, AND THEN LAUGHED SINISTERLY
He he he he
I'VE GOT A FEELING HE'S GOING AFTER MOM.
Hmmm
CERTAINLY, TAE-SAN IS INDEED BEAUTIFUL
AH, THE CAT COUNTRY'S #2
JUST AN EMPRESS, THAT'S ALL.
I'VE GOT IT.
gets up
FOR TAE-SAN'S SAKE, LET'S LEND A HAND!
Ichi!

WONDER-FUL
Clap
Clap
YOU'RE WELCOME TO CALL ON ME AGAIN.
I'VE GOT SOMETHING THAT I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
OH, WHAT MIGHT THAT BE?
A MATTER OF CHILDREN
CHIL-DREN?
YOU MUST MEAN SHIRO-CHAN?
OH YES, THE FLOWER SHOP'S LAND-LADY SAID SO.

I LET HIM GET AWAY.
COULD IT BE THAT YOU'VE KNOWN ABOUT SHIRO SINCE
BEFORE YOU EVEN GOT HERE?
SINCE I FIRST MET SHIRO,
I DIDN'T THINK I'VE EVER LET THAT WORD SLIP OUT
Child? I've never said that
Don't look down on me
HAHA. WOMEN ARE SCARY
NOW, ICHI!!
I WON'T LET YOU HAVE YOUR WAY ANY MORE, BARON!

?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SHIRO-CHAN, WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
I GOT HIM!
HE CONFESSED TO KNOWING NYANCHI'S WHEREABOUTS
THEN YOU WOULD TAKE AIM AT ICHII, WHEN THERE WAS A CARELESS MOMENT!
Shock
BONK
punch
WELL, I DON'T MIND.

YOUR...
NYAN-CHI
SURELY YOU KNEW
OF COUR—
Meow
Just sent up Aiwaru
THEN, WHERE IS SHE?
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D DISAPPEAR.
?
I WAS DESPERATE
THEN.
I WAS STRUCK BY YOUR BABY.
YOU PURPOSE-FULLY DIS-APPEARED IN THE POWDERY SNOW.

A CAT KNOWS THE HOUR OF ITS OWN DEATH.
THE EXTINGUISHING OF ITS FORM, SO TO SAY.
Since I was born, I've been mocked.
Nyanchi is...
well informed and clever.
WHEN I SAW THAT CAT,
I WAS STRUCK BY IT FOR SOME REASON.
OH, YOU WON'T COME NEAR ME?
THIS TIME I WAS SPLIT.
This time I was turned down
I WAS SPEAKING TO IT IN THAT VOICE.
EVEN IF YOU'RE LIKE THAT, I'M ALL ALONE HERE.
THE FUR WAS BLACK

THERE WAS A PATTERN AROUND THE MOUTH, TOO.
THE CAT WASN'T ATTACHED TO PEOPLE.
WHY?
HEY, ICHI!
WHAT IF NYANCHI COMES BACK?
WHY DID NYANCHI DISAPPEAR?
I WANT TO BE WITH NYANCHI
WE'LL GIVE HIM LOTS OF FATTY TUNA. HOW DOES THAT SOUND?
SHI-RO
THERE'S ALSO A TIME WHEN YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T GIVE UP
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT...

JUMP
FOR EXAMPLE,
YOUR MOM.
SHIRO!
YOU CAN'T STOP SOMETHING YOU'VE LOST.
For example.
Mom, too?
Because mom is a cat, too?
Nyanchi, in the same way,
ended up running away somewhere?

MOM.
MOM.
MOM
clack
MOM, YOU DIDN'T RUN AWAY, DID YOU?
IT'S A LIE, RIGHT?

I LOVE YOU A LOT
AND IF YOU LOVE ME TOO, THEN...
THEN YOU WOULDN'T GET TAKEN AWAY, RIGHT?
ICHI!, KANO-SAN
NYANCHI, NYAOSU AND NYAKO-SAN TOO
Cat's
EVERYONE IS IMPORTANT!
I DON'T WANT YOU TO DISAPPEAR!

SHI-
RO
plop
Clack
RATTLE
RATTLE
AH,
WHAT'S GOING ON?
NO,
EXCUSE US
SHE'S. .
SHE'S GOING INTO LABOR.
I'M SORRY, BUT...
COULD YOU LOOK AFTER TAE-SAN FOR 2-3 DAYS?
YEAH, THAT'S FINE.
I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW THOUGH
k-c-chik
GOTCHA
ICHI. .

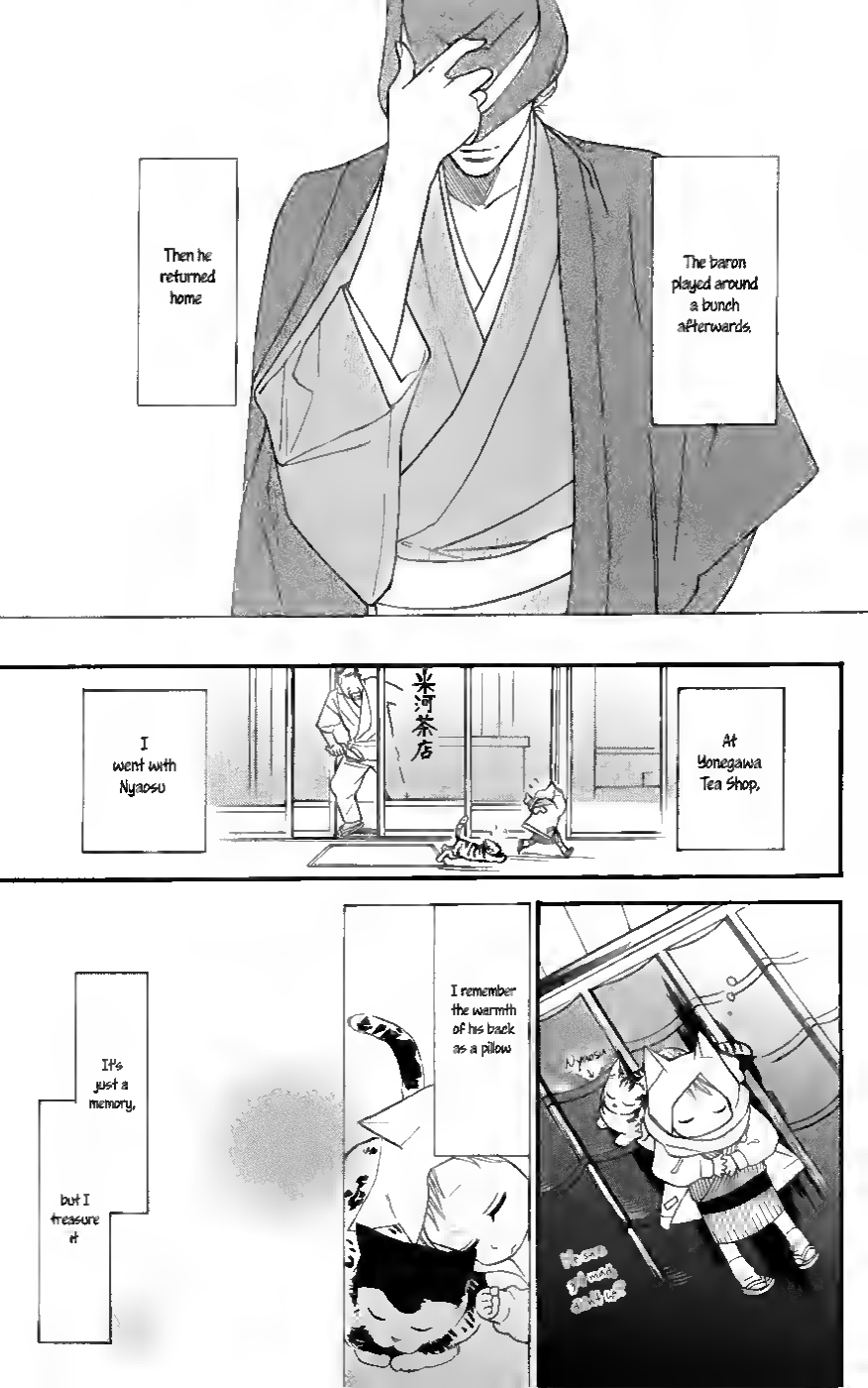
SCREECH
SHIRO
I'VE ALSO BECOME YOUR MOM.
AH.
SHI-RO

SAKI-SAN'S KIDS MAY ALREADY BE BORN,
BUT RIGHT NOW...
THE BIGGEST THING THIS TOWN IS GOING TO LOSE IS YOU.
THE BIGGEST THING...
THIS TOWN IS GOING TO LOSE IS YOU.

Even though she's gone...
Mom has become MY actual mother.
Nyanchi is gone, and our town's residents have decreased by one.
But, Yuuka's baby was born.
YOU CAN HOLD A LOT IN YOUR HANDS

THANK YOU FOR TAKING GOOD CARE OF ME.
ARE YOU AT YOUR WITS END YET, CHASING AFTER IT?
.....
SHIRO IS-
I HAD ONLY COME TO SEE THAT
...
AS FAR AS THAT KID IS CONCERNED, TAE-SAN IS HIS MOTHER.
YES, THAT'S TRUE.

?
I'LL TAKE HIM IN.
PLEASE, REST EASY
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU...
TAE-SAN

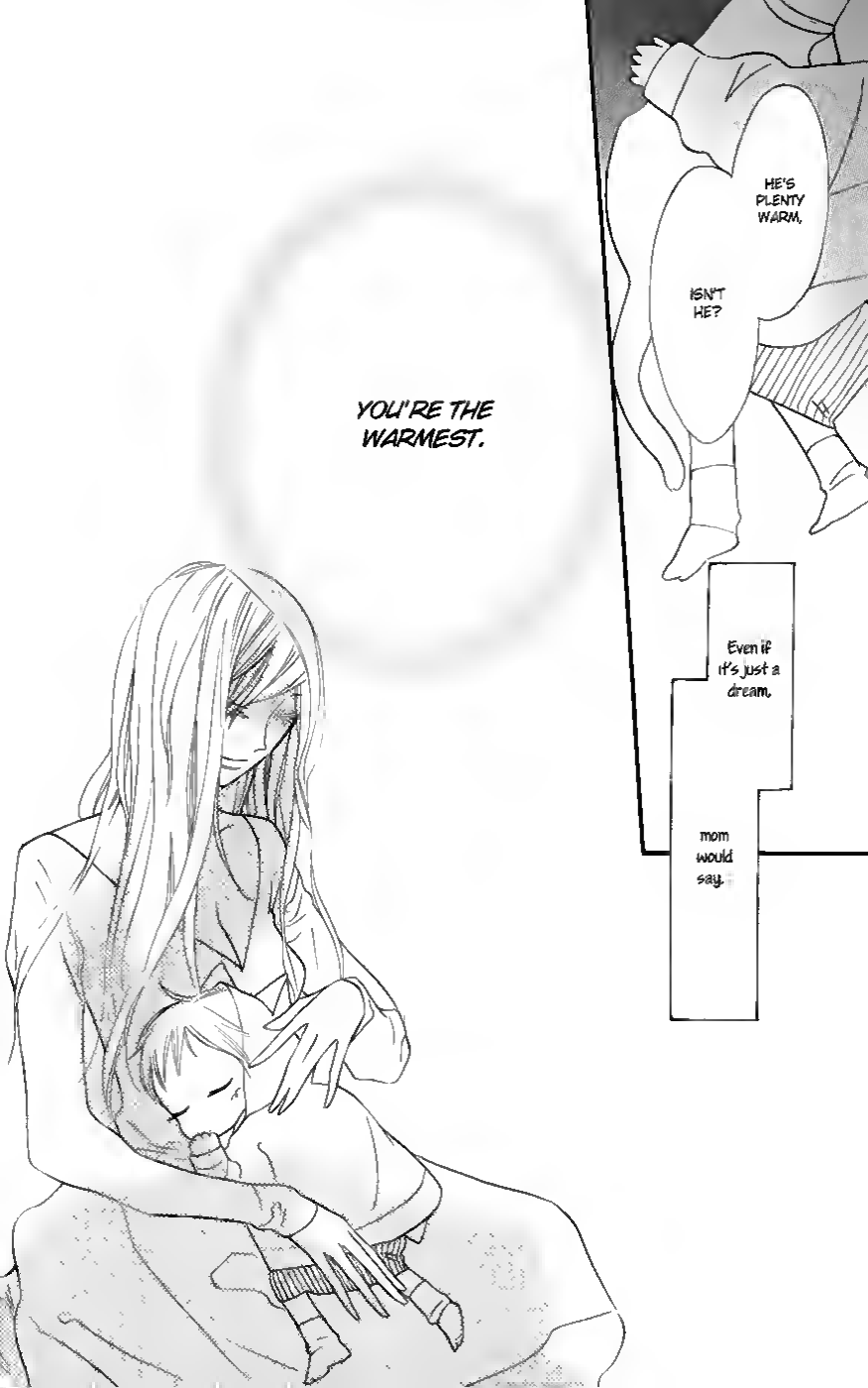

Then he returned home
The baron played around a bunch afterwards.
I went with Nyaosu
米河茶店
At Yonegawa Tea Shop,
It's just a memory,
but I treasure it
I remember the warmth of his back as a pillow
Nyaosu
Nyaosu is a cute cat!

For some reason, tears are welling up
LET'S GO, NYAOSU
THIS IS A GIFT
木綿季
木綿季
MOM.
HE'S SMALLER THAN ME.
I don't know
if important things are warm.

MOM
MOM.
shuffle
Pomph
I'M HOME,
RUKI-SAN.
..SHIRO?

I'M QUITE LOVED
flomp
IS THAT SO?
EVERY-ONE WAS WATCHING ME.
EVERY STEP I TOOK
I COULDN'T BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE PLACE YOU TALKED ABOUT, BUT
IN REGARDS TO THAT KID, HE'S IN GREAT CONDITION.
IF HE CAN BECOME HAPPY, THEN THAT'S GREAT.
I'M NOT SURE WHY,
BUT HE LOVES YOU FOR SOME REASON.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BEING A GOOD MOTHER RIGHT NOW.
PLEASE DON'T LOOK AT IT LIKE THAT
WITH HIS NEW MOM, HE'LL FORGET ABOUT ME SOON ENOUGH.
EVEN THOUGH YOU ABAN-DONED YOUR FAMILY?

WITH YOUR REMAINING LIFE.
YOU HAVE TO THINK AS A PARENT
THAT'S SOMETHING YOU DO WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, ISN'T IT?
I'M SORRY
SHIRO.
STOP
UH-
TAE-SAN


HE'S PLENTY WARM,
ISN'T HE?
Even if it's just a dream,
mom would say,
YOU'RE THE WARMEST.